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LAW AND LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE AS PARTS OF A STATE LIBRARY

By Mrs. MAUD B. COBB, *State Librarian of Georgia*

It is a rare privilege to me to be here, since the Georgia Legislature meets annually on the fourth Wednesday in June, and therefore, unfortunately, conflicts with the usual time of meeting of this association.

The first meeting that I attended was the second of the American Association of Law Libraries, held at Asheville in the month of April, 1907. It was an inspiration to me. I was young in library work and full of enthusiasm—not that my enthusiasm has grown less, but rather that it has been tempered by years of experience to a realization that reformations in a library cannot be accomplished in a day or a year; that neither a library nor a librarian can spring forth full panoplied.

The law library is an institution hoary with age; the state library, too, is venerable, since its beginning in most instances may be found in a group of law books which were gradually collected at the seat of government even before the day of statehood.

The past decade has wrought great changes in these two classes of library work thruout the country. Slower and more tedious has been their evolution in the South, but none the less significant. Changes in existing things come slowly. The initiative spirit is rare, but light has broken at last and has brought

us understanding of our great potential resources and richness of opportunity. Emerging from the narrow confines of restricted service, we come forth filled with ideals of state-wide service.

In Georgia the group of books, mostly law, which had accumulated at the Capitol thru the years was by act of 1831 converted into a State Library in the following words: "The convenience, benefit and usefulness of an extensive and well-selected library at the seat of government seem too obvious to admit of doubt. Profitable, useful and efficient legislation can only obtain where the lawmakers are intimately acquainted with operation of the laws and the object to be obtained by them. The first is the result of experience and the last requires a careful examination of the enactment of contemporaries and predecessors."

Here, then, with the first state library law was born the legislative reference idea in Georgia, bearing out the view that legislative reference work is a natural function of the state library, a part of the original design. No doubt this phase of the work would have had a normal, gradual development had the state library itself enjoyed such development, but one cannot expect normal growth in a limb whose body suffers a case of arrested development. For years the power to perform legislative reference work in the state of Georgia lay dormant, and it became necessary to ask the Legislature to authorize it all over again in order to obtain funds to put it into force.

More than one bill was introduced and died automatically, never having come to a vote. Realizing that Georgia legislators, like most people, have that sceptical instinct traditionally attributed to Missourians, we determined that they should be brought to a state of belief thru their senses, and to that end set about making that most convincing of arguments—a practical demonstration. Letters were written to chairmen of committees offering to aid them in assembling data which they needed in the consideration of special subjects. With all the tact and efficiency at our command we laid ourselves out to serve especially those members who appeared to be most strongly opposed to the bill. They were clearly surprised at the gratuitous service and deeply grateful for it. One lucky day a certain active floor leader of the House who does not know the meaning of the word passivity on any legislative measure, great or small, and who had seemed but poorly impressed with our measure, came seeking assistance in the drawing of a bill that should put a quietus on his particular *bête noir*, viz.: popularity and beauty contests of the daily press. Precisely what he wanted was furnished him. "Add my name to your list of converts," he said. "If that is what your bill means, I'm for it." The method adopted proved effective, and once more was justified the theory that work is more eloquent than words, more effective than impassioned pleas before committees, more productive of results than recommendations to boards. In fact, work is a very effective means of getting somewhere.

During the three years of its existence the Legislative Reference Department of the State Library of Georgia has kept thruout each session a current index to bills, indicating, day by day, the exact status of each. In addition to the current index the work of indexing bills has been carried backward thru the past seven sessions. Georgia official material has been analyzed and catalogued. A card index is kept to items of local interest to the state, appearing

in the daily issues of the Atlanta Constitution. This local index has proved so valuable, especially in expediting reference to state political campaigns and controversies, state primaries, governors' proclamations and semi-official announcements, that it will not only be continued in the future, but will be carried thru the entire file of the paper back to its earliest issue.

The largest single piece of work yet undertaken in the library is the classifying, listing, and marking for the shelves of public documents. The documents of thirty states and territories, some fifty thousand items, have been so treated up to this time. In the division of United States documents, all departmental publications have been classified and arranged according to the scheme devised by the Superintendent of Documents, which system has been generally adopted, I believe, by the leading libraries of this country.

The wisdom of developing legislative reference work in state libraries is justified on the perfectly obvious ground that where the documents are there should the work be also—practical work and lots of it, work that transforms this quondam junk into a veritable gold mine of promptly available statistics, of readily located matter on just the subjects that are up for consideration by one's own legislature and state officers, of information on all practical every-day subjects that are of value to legislative, judicial, and executive departments of state government. There is no longer room in libraries for junk or for ornaments. Books that have been "slackers" must be made to give out what they have in them, to serve to the extent of their capacity. Quoting from Miss Hasse's excellent article in the April number of the *Library Journal*, "A library is a utility, not a monument." "Get the goods over" is the advice she gives.

Some knowledge of the use of law books is essential to the legislator who would worthily represent his constituency. All legislators are not lawyers, and something has been gained when the non-lawyer member is brought into the atmosphere of the law library, where he sees law books put to practical use, with the result that he is placed in possession of the information that he needs. The experience repeated breaks down a fancied barrier; he begins to feel at home, and forms the habit of first-hand investigation. To counteract the "many fruitful sources of confusion," the state's entire collection, both documentary and legal, is thus readily available as a source to be drawn upon in legislative reference work.

Perhaps the most virile phase of state library work is legislative reference. It is dynamite to the sluggish. Its whole aim is to give service irrespective of handicaps. In Georgia, where the main handicap is lack of funds, we know from experience that a unification of these three classes of state work under one head has enabled us to give better service at less cost than would be possible with any one of the three activities operating separately. Since our Legislative Reference Department has been put to a minimum of expense for books and equipment, it has been able to employ additional help for the development of its resources. It has been able to subscribe to the "Official Index to State Legislation." This excellent work, sponsored by the American Association of Law Libraries and the National Association of State Libraries, has proved its value as a practical working tool. The State Library of Georgia has given substantial evidence of its appreciation of the splendid service rendered by the makers of the

Index by becoming a cooperating library as soon as it was in position to do so, and in continuing to cooperate thru the following year, namely, 1916. I desire to go on record to the effect that we regard the discontinuance of the Index as a distinct misfortune.

Since as a state library we enjoy exchange relations with the several states of the Union and consequently receive, in the natural course of things, most of the material handled by the Public Affairs Information Service, it would manifestly be superfluous for us to subscribe therefor, excellent though the service is. Such items as would not come to us on an exchange basis we are at all times at liberty to order at listed prices.

We make no attempt to exchange with other states printed copies of pending bills. The State of Georgia makes no provision for printing her legislative bills, nor are the Journals printed until after the close of the session, when they appear in book form.

We do no bill drafting, which to my mind does not lie within the province of the librarian. I am aware that some of you hold an opposite view, and I make the admission with bated breath.

Centralization of library interests grows more desirable with the increased rapidity of production. Lost in the centuries is the exact date of the first law. Like Topsy, "it growed," and continued to grow at astonishing speed. My own State of Georgia, in regular session in 1915 and 1916, passed 596 laws. During the two sessions 1523 bills were introduced. Our Supreme Court reviews more cases per year than any state in the Southeast. It has been suggested that the vast number of judicial opinions pouring in from all sides may lead to a general system of codification. If at the same time the forty-eight varieties of state laws might be brought into long-desired uniformity a state of near-millennium might be said to exist for state librarians, law librarians, and legislative reference librarians.

Be that as it may, most of you will agree with me that we have reason to be thankful that it is not the librarian's prerogative to work out remedial measures to alleviate the complexity to which it all tends. Rather is it the complexity of the present with which we have to deal—the complexity and perplexity of utilizing to the best advantage the enormous mass of material actually in our hands. The stupendous vitality of the age calls for much that was undreamed of in an earlier philosophy. Librarians as a class are not deaf to the call. We think in larger terms than formerly, conscious that library work is a bigger thing than our own particular field of endeavor. As law librarians we are in touch with the noblest of professions. The whole field of law is to-day alive with momentous questions that must be answered. Never did lawmakers face more difficult tasks, never have the officers of government, both state and national, borne more weighty responsibilities. We as librarians—law, state, and legislative reference—even unto the least of us, have a part to perform in the supreme struggle which grapples the world, a part that involves a maximum of effort, zeal, and efficiency. In a word, we must grow even as the times move—swiftly. In the spirit of Montalembert, while "bowing respectfully to the past and doing justice to the present we salute the future and true progress."

COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES AND THEIR SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY

By SUMNER YORK WHEELER, *Essex County Law Library, Salem, Mass.*

As is well known, all librarians have many duties in common, but the services rendered by the various kinds of law librarians differ considerably. The law librarian connected with the university may very well, from the nature of his duties, be one of the instructors, and as such assume to advise the student body on many legal questions; the librarian connected with the public service corporation or private law firm, or a librarian who serves only members of the bar, may prove himself of great assistance by legal research work, while such services could not be safely assumed by the librarian whose work consists in aiding all members of the public with equal consideration. It is in this latter position that the county law librarian is placed, and it often calls for no small amount of discretion upon his part to know just what service each particular occasion best requires.

As my remarks are to be confined mostly to law library associations in Massachusetts it might be well for me to give a brief history of these associations in this state.

In the year 1842 the General Court of Massachusetts passed the following law (Chapter 94, Acts 1842): "Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by authority of the same, as follows: Sec. 1. The counsellors and attorneys at law duly admitted to practice in the courts of this commonwealth, resident in the several counties thereof, except Suffolk, are hereby constituted corporations within their respective counties, for the purpose of holding and managing the law libraries belonging to said counties by the name of the law library association for the county in which it is formed, and may adopt by-laws for that purpose: provided, that the same may be approved by the justices of the Court of Common Pleas (now our Superior Court), and the officers of such association shall be a clerk, treasurer and librarian, whose duties shall be defined by the by-laws, which shall be adopted and approved as aforesaid."

I will not quote the whole of the second section of this act, as it deals with details regulating the calling of the first meeting, but the last part is of considerable importance. It reads as follows: ". . . any inhabitant of the county, shall have the right to use the books in said library, subject to such regulations as shall be prescribed by the association, with the approval of the Court of Common Pleas."

The few amendments to this law have in no way affected the vital parts of the act as read, as these amendments deal mostly with duties of the various officers of the association. In conformity with the authority given in this act most of our counties have established law library associations.

Many other states have followed the example of Massachusetts, the State of California in particular having a law to the effect that every county in the state shall support a law library. In some states, where no county law library exists are found private bar libraries, maintained by bar associations, or certain members thereof, who pay annual dues towards the library's support or who

have formed themselves into a corporation for the purpose of supporting such an enterprise. As most of these associations offer the free use of their volumes to the courts, visiting attorneys, public officials, and parties actually engaged in trial, they receive in return for these courtesies free rent in the courthouse of the county, public documents without cost, and some of the other favors which are customarily extended to free law library associations.

We county law librarians in Massachusetts come in touch continually with various types of individuals. First, we have the judges, attorneys, students and others whose callings in life are along legal lines and who are more or less continually using the library for reference work; secondly, there are the public officers, such as city and town clerks, notaries and justices, probate court practitioners, bankers, trustees, sheriffs, constables, and others who have recourse occasionally to the library to secure some legal information to help them in connection with the work in which they may be engaged. And, lastly, there is the layman, who is generally referred to the law library by some friend as the place where he can go and secure legal information desired without the necessity of consulting an attorney. As it is only with the courts, attorneys, and legislators that many law librarians have any dealings, it can readily be seen that the position of a county law librarian is much more difficult than at first might be imagined.

I will not dwell upon the services which we librarians render the courts, attorneys, and other students of the law, as this line of work falls upon us all, and no doubt the details connected with our respective duties are very similar. I will say in passing, however, that working with the courts and attorneys is the pleasantest part of my duties and that I am never so agreeably occupied as when working with some judge or attorney upon a puzzling legal proposition or assisting a lawyer as best I may in the preparation of his brief, and it is always my regret that the detail work of my library allows me so little time to be of service along these lines. Whatever assistance I may render from time to time to other public officers I find is appreciated, and as most of the questions asked by these parties are usually of a statutory nature frequent reference to our volumes almost always renders their solution an easy matter.

It is with the public at large that the interesting and puzzling part of the county law librarian's work reaches its climax, for while the layman does not resort frequently to our library, yet his presence is always more or less felt, and the librarian is constantly aware that it is public money which is supporting his library and that he should serve the layman with the same fidelity that he extends to a member of the bar.

In dealing with the public one, of course, encounters alike the educated and the uneducated, and the extent of services which one may judiciously render depends to a considerable degree upon the particular person whom he is serving. Most users of our library know well that the law librarian is not a walking encyclopædia upon all questions of the law, and consequently his services to them consists usually in finding this or that reference or giving such information as a law librarian might safely give off hand. To such persons as these the librarian is always of help.

There are, unfortunately, some individuals who expect a law librarian to be a court of last resort upon every known and unknown legal point and who

are greatly surprised if he is unable to answer their questions or if he suggests a lawyer's office as the proper place for presenting their inquiries. They fail to appreciate the fact that every legal question cannot be answered by the law librarian referring to this volume or that one, or that some of the laws under which we live are common law and not statutory, or that it is possible for a judicial officer to be honestly mistaken, or that the opinions of the Supreme Judicial Court have more weight than a notary's seal. Of course these are the exceptional cases, yet we are ever meeting them in the course of our duties, and it is often impossible to explain to the parties why categorical answers cannot be given to all their questions.

Most of our callers are not, however, of this sort, but come into the library for such information as can be readily given, such as the "marriage laws of a certain state," "grounds of divorce in Maine," "fish and game laws of New Hampshire," "automobile laws of Massachusetts," "inheritance tax laws of New Jersey," "laws of descent in California," "corporation laws of the states," "naturalization laws of United States," "pension laws," etc., etc., and in answering questions in these and many other kindred subjects I believe the law librarian performs a very helpful service to the community.

There is another matter in which we county law librarians are called upon to exercise greater care than is usually necessary in private bar association libraries, namely, not to encroach upon the field of other public libraries or libraries to which the public have access. While private libraries might be justified in purchasing volumes of a quasi legal character, such volumes as are often found in other libraries, we public law librarians feel that the taxpayers' money should not be spent to duplicate books which one can readily secure in other public libraries in the same locality.

In other words, our money should be spent for works of a strictly legal nature and for the need of which the law library was created. In Salem we have four excellent public libraries, or libraries to which the public have access, and we have all been very careful in the past not to duplicate one another's volumes except such works as are, or seem to be, essential to all libraries.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE JOINT SESSION OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE LIBRARIES, LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, JUNE 22, 1917

The session was called to order by Vice President Gilson G. Glasier at 2:30 P. M. He introduced as the first speaker on the program Hon. Edward J. McDermott of Louisville, formerly Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky, who delivered the address of welcome to the two associations. Mr. McDermott said in part:

"I am very glad, indeed, to perform the pleasant task of welcoming you to our city. We feel honored by this meeting of your associations here. We understand the valuable work in which you are engaged. I am told that there are in this audience the state librarians of many states. Yours is a most impor-

tant public service, and its value rises or sinks according to your fitness and fidelity. . . . Though your numbers are not great, your opportunities and your services here and at your homes may be great.

"I realize how useful the state libraries and the law libraries are. Before 1450 books had to be copied by hand, and because expensive were rare. After printing was invented books were slowly issued for a long time, but to-day they come out in a stream like a great Mississippi flood, so that no man can use more than a small part of them, and we need libraries where they may be gathered and studied for special purposes with discrimination and at little cost. There are some enterprising law publishers who would ruin most of us at the bar if we bought all their books. We must have the advantage of collective buying to get what we need at a reasonable expense.

"It is plainly true that in this day every man who wants to be something more than a mere smatterer or a drudge must know all of some one subject and he must know something of all other important subjects. In order that he may do that he must have access to these extensive libraries, where he may not only faithfully pursue his own branch of study, but where he may also have a chance to read what is best on other topics not directly within his special line of work. I agree with Cardinal Newman that culture or knowledge is worth being pursued for its own sake, but general knowledge also helps us much in any calling and has a tendency to make life more agreeable by making us more useful and contented. But knowledge is one thing and virtue is another. As St. Thomas à Kempis said, "Verily, when the day of judgment comes we shall not be examined on what we have read, but on what we have done; not how learnedly we have spoken, but how religiously we have lived."

"There are many persons who think that the only way to become a scholar or a cultivated man is to read great numbers of books. When Socrates was once passing through the streets of Athens and looked into the window of a shop where there were a great many gems and gold and silver ornaments for sale he said: "I am glad that there are so many things I do not want." I often say that of books. . . . It is not by the reading of the large library, not by poring over a great number of books that men acquire culture or that the mind is disciplined or gets the best use of all its powers; it is by the constant reading of the few great books. "If I had read as much as other men," said Schopenhauer, "I should have been as ignorant as other men." It is by reading and re-reading, by studying constantly the few great masterpieces that the mind and the will are best disciplined and that the best culture is acquired. . . .

"You librarians furnish and make available the means of culture. You set forth the substantial food and the dainties, fit for nourishment or innocent pleasure. I have noticed that many men—some who have had only a moderate education and some who even have a degree from a high university—have not improved by later study, and at the close of life were practically ignorant. Their good start was used to little purpose. It is not what we learn at college, not what we learn from professors at universities that makes us cultured; it is mainly by what we learn later—after our faculties have been well trained and our habits of application have been firmly fixed—that we acquire real culture and genuine power. And with these great libraries which you build up and make serviceable

we are able to study modern or ancient problems with some success. The necessary tools are put into our hands. It is our duty to use them often and use them well.

"I lately read F. R. Maitland's book on *The Dark Ages*. It deals with a period grossly misrepresented by many popular historians, a period which men of great pretensions to scholarship do not understand and often slander, ignorantly or knowingly, for partisan reasons. The author had a splendid library at his command, and, better still, he had an impartial judgment and the courage to tell frankly what he learned by honest study of another age. He was able to do justice. . . . You may have a chance to furnish the means for sharpening and brightening other intellects and of developing other historians of even greater talents and better judgment, who may finally correct the errors and upset the pet current theories that most people carry through life from reading misleading popular historians. . . .

"Let me say that the law libraries, too, are most important to us. It is true that they are swelling to enormous proportions. In this day there must necessarily be many more books than formerly. I fear that a full law library of the future will fill a whole block in a town. Some relief must be found for the coming lawyer. There must finally be a time when some man of great learning, brilliant intellect, and great industry, as in Justinian's time, will endeavor to systematize and codify our law and try to reduce it into something like a reasonable, if not a perfect, system, as Germany and France have done. Whether that end will be reached in this century I cannot say, but at any rate we must have all of the valuable law books gathered in a convenient place where some men of practical genius may find and carry out a reasonable remedy.

"In conclusion, let me say that while we want to encourage natural science and all subjects of importance to the world we must not neglect the study of the great books that deal more especially with the imagination or that inculcate moral principles and high ideals so important to men and women in every age. . . . It is not merely by discovering nature's phenomena and the laws governing the universe that men or the world are best advanced, great as such services may be. . . . We want to advance science, but we must also have a constant care for general literature, for the study of those books that helped to promote the civilization of Greece and Rome and that may help to spiritualize our civilization. If the world needs any one thing at present more than another it is not wider knowledge, but higher and better conduct, a higher type of men and women, with firmer principles of morality, charity, and justice and with a stronger will to practice them in daily life. In the making of the men and women of the future the librarian has a part to play, an important duty to perform.

"I agree with Herbert Spencer that without popular education we could not well conduct a democracy or a republic, but I also agree with him in the statement that the results of popular education have not yet been such as to satisfy the great expectations that our ancestors had and that we have had of its benefits in practical affairs. If our men and women are to read only newspapers, magazines, novels, and the lighter sort of books—those things which merely entertain for the moment, which only keep us from real thinking, which only gratify whims, follies, and prejudices, which take little account of the real truths and

the stern realities of this life and the life beyond—then we shall not have accomplished by popular education what we set out to accomplish. On the other hand you in your way, and the teachers and the professors in the schools and universities in their way, may possibly raise such a standard of education and of culture in our country that good books will be read and digested in the right way and be used for right purposes. If education for the masses shall make them better men and women, better breadwinners, and better citizens, and if education for the gifted few shall make them conscientious workers and wise leaders of their own country and of other nations, there will be good reason to rejoice that the art of printing was discovered and that the highest civilization which the world has yet known is not to fade away nor to decay, but to grow better and spread farther and to be of greater service to all mankind."

On behalf of the Associations, the chairman thanked Mr. McDermott for his most excellent address. He then introduced Hon. William Marshall Bullitt of Louisville, former Solicitor General of the United States under President Taft, who spoke on the subject of

"PUBLIC COMMISSIONS"

Mr. Bullitt said in part:

"Looking at Mr. Hewitt's letter, in which he asked me to review the legal literature on the subject of public commissions, I was simply overwhelmed, for I found that there was so much in the way of books, speeches, and magazine articles that if I were to mention the titles of all it would be like reading a directory. I was utterly unable to really review the literature of the subject, and so my address from that standpoint has gone by the board. . . . There is probably nothing that is more significant in the development of the governmental institutions of this country than the tremendous multiplication of public commissions in the last few years. In the State of Illinois alone in March of this year an act was passed which at one stroke repealed 131 boards or commissions or special offices having the functions of boards and undertook to redistribute their duties in a more systematic manner, and when you think that one state had 131 boards—such as a board of accountancy, and a commission relating to structural engineers, and every conceivable thing in the world—you are bound to be impressed with the development in this country of the scheme of government by which everyone is trying to regulate everybody else's business except his own, and the people who are most opposed to having their own business regulated are extremely anxious to have some other person's business regulated.

"There are some striking things in connection with this development of commissions. In the first place, they are developing a bureaucracy with autocratic powers. While we are being told by high authority that the great war of to-day is one of democracy against autocracy and that we must make the world safe for democracy simultaneously with that slogan we find that the government is itself developing the most autocratic lot of boards and commissions that have ever been conceived of. There has never been in the history of the world a ruler or any other person having any sort of governmental control who began to have the power that is now being proposed to be put into the hands of the President

in order to effectually prosecute the war. It may be that it is a very good thing to have such autocratic power. I am not at all disposed to dispute the idea that maybe an autocratic form of government is a very good one. Apparently we seem to think so just at present, and these public commissions are being given autocratic powers.

"In the next place, the commissions are generally made up of men who know nothing whatever of the subject committed to their charge. The most striking thing about the appointments to every public commission is that the men appointed are not experts. Probably the most widely known board is the Interstate Commerce Commission. It is quite a significant thing that there has never yet been appointed to the Interstate Commerce Commission a single man who has ever been a first rate expert in connection with actual railroad management or in connection with finance or in connection with any other of the things with which the Interstate Commerce Commission has to deal. No man has ever been appointed who in private life before his appointment had proven himself to be a first-rate man in connection with any of the duties which he has been called upon to perform in connection with that commission. We have all kinds of businesses regulated by men who are essentially not experts. In fact, business men who really know the duties they are performing are now being regulated by amateurs.

"It occurs to me that I will be extremely glad, if it meets the approval of the associations, to defray the expense of printing a pamphlet which it seems to me might be of value. A lawyer in one state having occasion to consider some question arising under one of these commissions may be anxious to know exactly what other states in the Union have similar commissions. It generally requires a great deal of labor, so far as my experience has gone, to find out just what is the state of the law in all the other states of the Union concerning a particular commission. It occurs to me that if by some sort of cooperative distribution of the work among the law libraries they would make out a schedule for each state showing briefly just what public commissions there were in that state, with a reference to the statutes creating them, and possibly a very brief note on their jurisdiction and functions and a reference to any special book or article that might have been written concerning them in that state, the material could all be put together in one pamphlet. I would be very glad to undertake the expense of printing such a pamphlet.

"Speaking on behalf of lawyers generally, I feel that there is no class of persons, except clients, to whom lawyers are under more obligation than the law librarian, and I know it has been to me a source of great pleasure when I have been in different places to be so courteously treated and to know the trouble to which law librarians go, especially with respect to visiting lawyers and strangers. I have had from them many courtesies in different cities, and I feel under a peculiar sense of obligation to the whole Association of Law Librarians just for that reason. I am very glad to have had this opportunity to meet you and am sorry that circumstances were such that I was unable to make the kind of address indicated upon your program."

From the discussion following this address it seemed that no undertaking of the kind proposed by Mr. Bullitt is being considered, although several states

have compiled data from their own statutes. On request, Mr. Bullitt restated his proposition, as follows: "It would seem that it would be useful to have printed in pamphlet form a list of the various commissions in the different states, with a brief review of the statutes creating them and perhaps with a note regarding their functions and jurisdiction. With such data furnished by each state I would be very glad to defray the expense of editing, preparing and having such a list printed. It would really be a sort of ready index to the commissions of this country." Following this statement it was moved, seconded, and unanimously carried that Mr. Bullitt's offer be accepted and that a committee of the joint associations be appointed to co-operate with him and that the various librarians send to him a synopsis of the laws of their respective states regarding public boards, commissions, and their functions.

Mrs. Maud B. Cobb, State Librarian of Georgia, then read a paper on "Law and Legislative Reference Work as Parts of a State Library."

The Committee on Uniformity of Session Laws reported progress, the report was accepted, and the committee continued.

The following report of the Committee on National Legislative Information Service was read by Secretary Franklin O. Poole:

To the National Association of State Libraries and the American Association of Law Libraries:

Your Joint Committee on the National Legislative Information Service respectfully reports:

About a year ago, you will recall, there was begun an extensive publicity campaign. Thousands of circulars, together with the printed report of the committee, were sent out to selected lists of libraries, lawyers, and large business houses. This was followed by efforts in the same direction made at the Asbury Park meeting of the library associations, where your committee was given space in the main lobby of the headquarters hotel. During the entire week of the convention two competent men were kept on duty answering questions and supplying sample copies. These activities resulted in an exceedingly heavy correspondence.

Efforts were also made to bring the Index to the attention of the American Bar Association at their convention in the late summer, and the committee is glad to report that favorable mention was made in at least two reports presented to that association.

As the first of the year approached numerous committee meetings were held, and a great deal of time was spent by the various members of the committee in efforts to arouse interest in the service and to increase the number of subscriptions. Seventy-seven prepaid telegrams were sent out in one day in the early part of January, and attempts were made to secure assistance from the large endowments.

As a result of these activities thirty-three states agreed to co-operate by sending to the committee their printed material and information during 1917. Fourteen of these states agreed also to subscribe in whole or in part. There were also eighteen subscriptions from libraries other than co-operating libraries and thirty-one subscriptions from law firms and corporations.

The subscriptions received amounted to \$12,400, while the total required for the publication during 1917, exclusive of any overhead charges, was estimated at \$27,500, or about seventy-six subscriptions more than were actually secured.

When one considers that the amount already invested by Mr. Allen in developing the Index is over \$32,000 it is evident that it was quite impractical to publish the Index under conditions which would have entailed an additional loss of \$15,000.

Although it may seem to some that the efforts of your joint committee have been fruitless, the numerous inquiries which have come to us since the abandonment of efforts to bring out the publication this year proves conclusively that the Index met a real need. These inquiries have been of such a nature and so numerous that more than ever your committee is of the opinion that with proper publicity and your continued support the Index will be put upon a permanent basis. Hopes are entertained that it can be published in 1918, a so-called "off year" in legislation, when the cost, it is estimated, will be a little less than \$10,000.

If the sixty-three who subscribed in 1917 will renew their subscriptions at \$150 each this estimated cost will be nearly met. If the subscription rate is reduced to \$100 thirty-three additional subscriptions will be required. Some margin should be allowed, however, for possible increases in cost of paper and labor.

Your committee takes this occasion to thank the several state libraries, legislative reference bureaus, and other libraries for their support in the past, although, owing to circumstances, perhaps, it has not always been a concerted support. Each and every member of the committee regrets the handicap which they have personally suffered in their work as librarians because of their inability through lack of financial support to publish the Index during this year. They regret the disappointment felt by all co-operators and subscribers. The committee would emphatically state to you, however, that the realization of the hopes for 1918 are dependent first of all on your continued assistance and financial support. Without such support nothing can be done next year. With your active assistance and support we are reasonably certain to obtain the outside help requisite to placing the Index on a permanent basis. Without Mr. Allen's whole-hearted co-operation and financial assistance our enterprise would not have been possible. Now that the Index has been shown to be possible, workable, and necessary, your committee feels more strongly than ever that the associations here represented owe it to themselves, to Mr. Allen, and to the future users of the service to see that the work so perfected is continued.

The report was accepted and the committee continued.

On motion, seconded, and duly carried, the meeting adjourned.

LAW LIBRARY JOURNAL

STANDING COMMITTEES FOR 1917-1918

Committee on Method of Obtaining United States Supreme Court Opinions.
Chairman, F. O. Poole

E. A. Feazel

G. G. Glasier

Committee on Index to Legal Periodicals and Law Library Journal.
Chairman, F. O. Poole

G. S. Godard

G. E. Woodard

Committee on Legal Bibliography.
Chairman, A. J. Small

Mary K. Ray

E. E. Willever

Committee on Subject Headings.
Chairman, G. N. Cheney

Mrs. Margaret C. Klingelsmith

J. D. Thompson

Committee on Reprinting Session Laws.
Chairman, G. E. Wire

A. J. Small

E. A. Feazel

Committee on Latin-American Laws
Chairman, E. M. Borchard

F. B. Crossley

R. B. Anderson

Committee on List of Law Libraries and Law Librarians.
Chairman, G. N. Cheney

M. I. Ferguson

A. H. Mettee

Committee on Uniformity of Session Laws and Documents.
Chairman, S. Y. Wheeler

F. A. Davis

G. E. Woodard

Committee on Symbols to Indicate Pagination of Books.
Chairman, T. L. Cole

Committee on Instruction in Use of Law Books.
Chairman, F. C. Hicks

F. W. Schenk

E. E. Willever

Committee on National Legislative Information Service.
Chairman, G. S. Godard

A. J. Small

F. O. Poole

Committee on Skeleton Index.

Chairman, Gertrude E. Woodard

A. R. Hasse

E. J. Lien

Committee on Insurance Valuation.
Chairman, A. H. Mettee

James L. Gillis, state librarian of California, died in Sacramento July 27. Mr. Gillis was born in Richmond, Iowa, in 1857, but lived the greater part of his life in California. From 1895 to 1899 he was keeper of archives in the office of the Secretary of State, and during the sessions of 1895, 1897, and 1899 acted as clerk of the Committee on Ways and Means of the General Assembly.

From April 1, 1899, until his death he held the position of State Librarian. During this time he was instrumental in the establishment of the county library system and the state library school. He was president of the California Library Association from 1906 to 1909 and from 1911 to 1915. As a member also of the American Library Association, National Association of State Libraries, and American Association of Law Libraries he was widely known, and his always conscientious work and ready cooperation in the library field won him recognition as one of the leading state librarians of this country.

NOTES ON LEGAL BIOGRAPHY

(Law librarians and others are requested to send notes appropriate for this page to Frederick C. Hicks, Law Librarian, Columbia University, New York City.)

NEW YORK LEGAL OBSERVER

(12 Vols. 1842-1854.)

In Volume 6 there is an apparent break—an omission of signature 21, covering pages 161 to 168. A set recently came in with this apparent imperfection which put us on inquiry. We have had eight sets in the hands of various dealers examined, also sets in four different

libraries, and in each case this signature and pages were found missing. We are therefore inclined to believe that they were omitted through printer's error or consisted of advertising sheets and were eliminated in binding.

F. E. CHIPMAN.

THE CITATION OF COKE'S REPORTS

As far back as 1656—Noy's Reports—the abbreviation "Rep" has been used for Coke's Reports. I suspect that the cause of this mode of citation will be found in the marginal notes to Popham's Reports, in which 2 and 3 Co. are cited thus: "Butler and Baker's case, Cooke 2 Reports 25," but his other report thus: "Goodale's case, Cooke lib. 2:95." Until the second volume of the Institutes appeared in 1642 there was no ambiguity in using Co. as the abbreviation, for the first Institute was cited as *Coo. Litt.*, while Co. 2 could mean only the second book of the *reports*. But when the second Institute appeared, Co. 2 became ambiguous, as it might mean the second Institute *or* the second book of reports. Hence may have arisen the notation of adding the abbreviation "Inst" or "Rep" (as the case might be) after the numeral, and later the extension of this notation to *each* book of his reports, and later still the omission of the name of Coke altogether.

I have a French copy of Littleton dated 1612 with broad margins for annotations, on which are more than 3,000 notes written in various hands, which I have numbered from 1 to 6, according to their respective dates as I conjecture them. Hand 3 cites Coke thus: "Co. 1-100b Sh cas: (for Shelley's case). Hand 5 uses a form of citation adopted in Rolle's abridgment, but which I have never met elsewhere, thus: "Co. 9 Lowe 123b,"

instead of "Co. 9. 123b Lowe's case." Hand 6 omits the name of Coke altogether, thus: "l. 4f. 123, n." This last is an imitation of Coke's own mode of citing his reports, as *lib*.

In the annotations to my copy of Littleton there are more than twenty citations of "rep," thus: "rep. 2. 24. 17a." I conjecture that these are references to some manuscript report of cases of the time of Henry VII (7th). The annotator evidently did *not* know "rep" as an abbreviation of Coke's reports. Hand 5 in one place cites "Coke Littleton," and in another 2 Inst. simply as "Co.," without giving the folio; thus, in his note on section 170 of Littleton, he says (in French): "Accordingly, Coke obyt;" he seems to refer to 2 Inst. 238. I cannot date the hands further than this: As Hand 5 cites 2 Inst., he must have written after 1642; as Hand 6 cites Cro-Jae, he must have written after 1662. I believe Hand 3 to be earlier than Coke's Littleton.

As in manuscripts written three hundred years ago the abbreviation Co. stands not only for Coke, but also for "coetera," meaning "etc.," it is difficult at times to know just what the writer means. Ambiguity is sometimes avoided by doubling the "o" in the abbreviation for Coke. "Coo. Litt." means Coke upon Littleton; sometimes the full name is written—Cook or Cooke.

CHARLES B. SEYMOUR.

AMERICAN STATE REPORTS AND SESSION LAWS EXCLUSIVE OF SIDE REPORTS

Revised to March 1, 1918

Publication	Dates of regular sessions	Source	Latest vol. to appear
Alabama			
Reports .....	. . .	Secretary of State.....	196
App. Reports .....	. . .	Secretary of State.....	14
Session laws	Quadrennial 1911, 1915, etc.	Secretary of State.....	1915 2 vols
Alaska			
Reports .....	. . .	West Publ. Co., St. Paul, Minn.....	4
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of Territory.....	1917
Arizona			
Reports .....	. . .	Bancroft, Whitney & Co., San Francisco	18
Session laws	Odd years	State Librarian	1917
Arkansas			
Reports .....	. . .	F. H. Thomas L. B. Co., St. Louis..	128
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State.....	1917 2 vols
California			
Reports .....	. . .	Bancroft, Whitney & Co., San Francisco	174
App. Rep. ....	. . .	Bancroft, Whitney & Co., San Francisco	33
Adv. parts for both sets	. . .	Bancroft, Whitney & Co., San Francisco	
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State.....	1916 ex, 1917
Colorado			
Reports .....	. . .	Courtright Publ. Co., Denver.....	61
App. Reports .....	. . .	Mills Pub. Co., Denver.....	27. Discontinued with v. 27
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State.....	1917
Connecticut			
Reports .....	. . .	Banks L. P. Co., N. Y. City.....	90
Advance parts .....	. . .	Banks L. P. Co., N. Y. City.	
Session laws	Odd years	State Librarian	1917
Delaware			
Reports .....	. . .	State Librarian	28
Chancery Reports ....	. . .	State Librarian	10
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State.....	1917
District of Columbia			
Appeals .....	. . .	Lawyers Co-op. Pub. Co., Rochester, N. Y.	45
Acts of Congress pertaining to	Annual	Commrs. of D. C.....	1915-16
Florida			
Reports .....	. . .	G. T. Whitfield, Clerk Supreme Ct..	71
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State.....	1917 gen. & spec.
Georgia			
Reports .....	. . .	State Librarian	146
App. Rep. ....	. . .	State Librarian	19
Session laws	Annual	State Librarian	1917 reg. & ex.
Hawaii			
Reports .....	. . .	Jas. A. Thompson, Clerk Supreme Ct.	23
Advance parts .....	. . .	Jas. A. Thompson, Clerk Supreme Ct.	
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of Territory.....	1917
Idaho			
Reports .....	. . .	Bancroft, Whitney & Co., San Francisco	30
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State.....	1917

Publication	Dates of regular sessions	Source	Latest vol. to appear
Illinois			
Reports .....	...	Callaghan & Co., Chicago.....	278
Advance parts .....	...	Supreme Ct. Reporter	
App. Rep. ....	...	Callaghan & Co., Chicago.....	203
Circuit Ct. Repts.....	...	T. H. Flood & Co., Chicago.....	3
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State.....	1917
Indiana			
Reports .....	...	Secretary of State.....	184
App. Reports .....	...	Secretary of State.....	61
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State.....	1917
Iowa			
Reports .....	...	T. H. Flood & Co., Chicago.....	175
Session laws	Odd years	State Law Librarian.....	1917
Kansas			
Reports .....	...	State Librarian	100
Advance parts .....	...	State Librarian	
Session laws	Odd years	State Librarian	1917
Kentucky			
Reports .....	...	State Librarian	175
Advance parts .....	...	State Librarian	
Kentucky opinions ..	...	Bobbs-Merrill, Indianapolis	15 (Digest v. 2)
Session laws	Even years	State Librarian	1917 ex
Louisiana			
Reports .....	...	State Librarian	140
Session laws	Even years	Secretary of State.....	1917 ex
Maine			
Reports .....	...	State Librarian	114
Session laws	Odd years	State Librarian	1916 sp; 1917
Maryland			
Reports .....	...	King Bros., Baltimore.....	129
Advance parts .....	...	King Bros., Baltimore	
Session laws	Even years	State Librarian	1917 June ex.
Massachusetts			
Reports .....	...	Little, Brown & Co., Boston.....	225
Advance parts .....	...	Little, Brown & Co., Boston	
Session laws	Annual	State Librarian	1916 reg. & ex.
Michigan			
Reports .....	...	Callaghan & Co., Chicago.....	192
Session laws	Odd years	State Librarian	1917
Minnesota			
Reports .....	...	Keefe-Davidson Co., Minneapolis...	135
Advance parts .....	...	Keefe-Davidson Co., Minneapolis	
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State.....	1916 ex, 1917
Mississippi			
Reports .....	...	E. W. Stephens Publ. Co., Columbia, Mo.	113
Session laws	Even years	Secretary of State.....	1916
Missouri			
Reports .....	...	F. H. Thomas Law Book Co., St. Louis	269
App. Reports .....	...	F. H. Thomas Law Book Co., St. Louis	195
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State.....	1917
Montana			
Reports .....	...	Bancroft, Whitney & Co., San Francisco	53
Session laws	Odd years	State Law Librarian.....	1917
Nebraska			
Reports .....	...	H. C. Lindsay, State Librarian.....	100
Session laws	Odd years	H. C. Lindsay, State Librarian.....	1917
Nevada			
Reports .....	...	Secretary of State.....	39
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State.....	1917

Publication	Dates of regular sessions	Source	Latest vol. to appear
New Hampshire			
Reports .....	...	John H. Riedell, Manchester, N. H...	77
Advance parts .....	...	John H. Riedell, Manchester, N. H.	
Session laws	Odd years	Edson C. Eastman, Concord, N. H...	1915
New Jersey			
Law Reports .....	...	Soney & Sage, Newark, N. J.....	89
Equity Reports .....	...	Soney & Sage, Newark, N. J.....	86
Session laws	Annual	Secretary of State.....	1917
New Mexico			
Reports .....	...	State Librarian	21
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State.....	1917 and ex.
New York			
Reports .....	...	J. B. Lyon Co., Albany.....	220
App. Div. Repts.....	...	J. B. Lyon Co., Albany.....	176
N. Y. Miscellaneous...	...	J. B. Lyon Co., Albany.....	99
Session laws	Annual	J. B. Lyon Co., Albany.....	1917 and ex. 3 v.
Advance parts covering all the above.	...	J. B. Lyon Co., Albany	
North Carolina			
Reports .....	...	Secretary of State.....	172
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State.....	1917
North Dakota			
Reports .....	...	Secretary of State.....	36
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State.....	1917
Ohio			
Reports .....	...	Cleveland L. B. Co.....	94
App. Reports .....	...	Cleveland L. B. Co.....	5
Advance parts covering above	...	Cleveland L. B. Co.	
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State.....	1917
Oklahoma			
Reports .....	...	State Librarian	48
Criminal Reports .....	...	State Librarian	11
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State.....	1916 ex.
Oregon			
Reports .....	...	Bancroft, Whitney & Co., San Francisco	83
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State.....	1917
Pennsylvania			
State Reports .....	...	Geo. T. Bisel & Co., Philadelphia...	256
Superior Court Repts. ....	...	Geo. T. Bisel & Co., Philadelphia...	65
District Reports with advance parts, including advance parts in the first two series	...	Legal Intelligencer, Philadelphia...	25
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State.....	1915 2 vols.
Philippines			
Reports .....	...	Bureau Insular Affairs, Washington, D. C.	31
Session laws	Annual	Bureau Insular Affairs, Washington, D. C.	1915-16, 1916 spec.
Porto Rico			
Reports .....	...	Bureau Insular Affairs, Washington, D. C.	23
Session laws	Annual	Bureau Insular Affairs, Washington, D. C.	1916
Rhode Island			
Reports .....	...	State Librarian	38
Acts and Resolves....	Annual	State Librarian	Ja 1917
Public laws .....	...	.....	Ja 1917
South Carolina			
Reports .....	...	R. L. Bryan, Columbia, S. C.....	106
Advance parts .....	...	R. L. Bryan, Columbia, S. C.	
Session laws	Annual	Secretary of State.....	1917
South Dakota			
Reports .....	...	State Publ. Co., Pierre, S. D.....	37
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State.....	1917

Publication	Dates of regular sessions	Source	Latest vol. to appear
Tennessee			
Reports .....	...	E. W. Stephens Pub. Co., Columbia, Mo.	137
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State.....	Extra session 1916
Texas			
Reports .....	...	Southern L. Book Publishers, Austin, Tex.	106
Civil Appeals .....	...	T. H. Flood & Co., Chicago.....	62
Criminal Reports ....	...	Southern L. Book Publishers, Austin, Tex.	76
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State.....	1917 & 1st called
Utah			
Reports .....	...	Callaghan & Co., Chicago.....	48
Session laws	Odd years	The Kelly Co., Salt Lake City.....	1917
Vermont			
Reports .....	...	State Librarian	90
Advance parts .....	...	John W. Redmond, Reporter, New- port, Vt.	
Session laws	Odd years	State Librarian	1916, 1917 sp.
Virginia			
Reports .....	...	Secy. of Commonwealth.....	119
Advance parts entitled	...	Appeals Press, Richmond, Va.	
Va. and W. Va. Ap- peals			
Session laws	Even years	Secy. of Commonwealth.....	1916 reg.
Washington			
Reports .....	...	Bancroft, Whitney & Co., San Fran- cisco	95
Advance parts .....	...	Bancroft, Whitney & Co., San Fran- cisco	
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State.....	1917
West Virginia			
Reports .....	...	Secretary of State.....	76
Advance parts (See Virginia)			
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State.....	1917 reg., extra and 2nd extra
Wisconsin			
Reports .....	...	Callaghan & Co., Chicago.....	165
Session laws	Odd years	State Supt. of Pub. Prop'ty, Madison	1916 spec.
Biennial compilation by the State Reviser	...	State Supt. of Pub. Prop'ty, Madison	1913
Wyoming			
Reports .....	...	Callaghan & Co.....	24
Session laws	Odd years	State Librarian	1917
United States			
Reports .....	...	Banks L. P. Co., N. Y. City.....	243
Reports L. Ed.....	...	Lawyers Co-op. Pub. Co., Rochester, N. Y.	61
C. C. A. ....	...	West Pub. Co., St. Paul, Minn.....	153
Porto Rico Federal ...	...	Lawyers Co-op. Pub. Co., Rochester, N. Y.	8
I. C. C. ....	...	Govt. Printing Office, Washtn., D. C.	41
Court of Claims ....	...	Govt. Printing Office, Washtn., D. C.	51